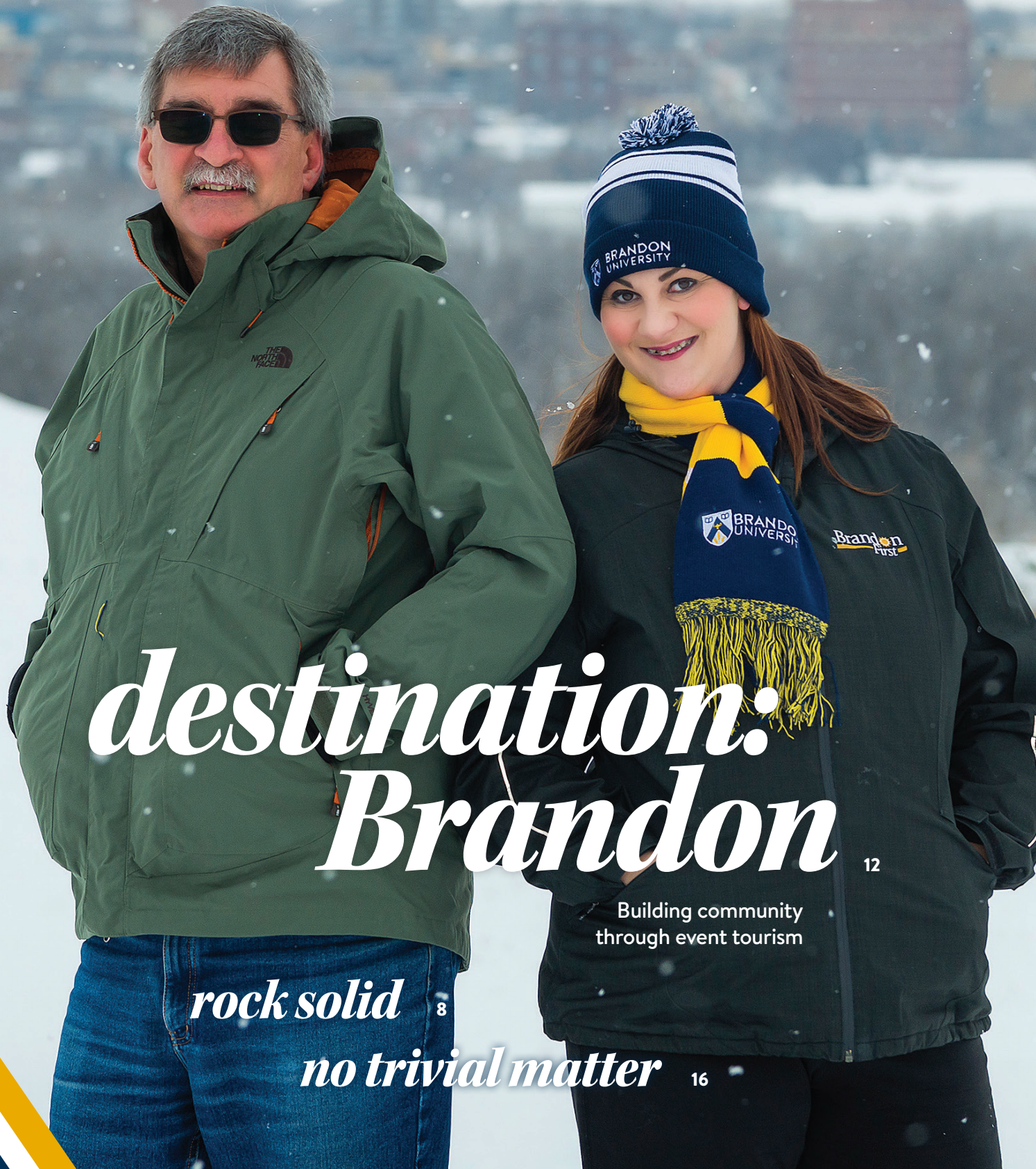




CLARK



destination: Brandon

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Building community
through event tourism

rock solid 8

no trivial matter 16





1967-68 2017-18
BU 50

A year of BU50 celebrations, marking 50 years since Brandon University received its charter, culminated in a massive party during Homecoming 2018. The four-day weekend drew thousands of people for a wide variety of reunions, concerts, games and community events.

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OUR TEAM

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Send us your stories – As alumni, you undoubtedly have much to tell us about the relationships that you developed while at BU – ClarkMag@BrandonU.ca

Clark is published twice a year and reaches more than 15,000 alumni and friends of Brandon University worldwide.

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Building Brandon together

This is a special edition of Clark magazine for me, as it marks my final President's Message. Later this spring, Brandon University will welcome Dr. David Docherty as our new President, and I will return to my office as Vice-President (Academic & Provost).

My time as Interim President has been richly rewarding in many ways, but one way that sticks with me has been the opportunity to engage more deeply with the wider community. While doing so, I saw familiar BU faces everywhere — volunteering, attending, supporting and being a proud part of countless events and organizations.

In the pages that follow, you will read examples of this impact made by members of the Brandon University community each and every day. Highlighted in this issue are alumni, current students, staff and faculty members who are rich parts of the Brandon tapestry.

This year, for example, Brandon hosts the 2019 Tim Hortons Brier, which BU is proud to sponsor as an Official Partner. Bringing events like the Brier to Brandon takes hard work behind the scenes by many people — including several with a BU connection. The “Destination: Brandon” feature looks at three people — two alumni and one staff member — who in different ways make sure that Brandon puts on our share of large national events.

Events also happen right here on campus. All of us are proud of our Geology students who have brought a major geosciences conference to Brandon, which you'll read about in the “Rock Solid” feature. Smaller events are meaningful, too. I loved learning in “No Trivial Matter” about the weekly Trivia Nights put on by BU's

Aaron Wilson and his wife Kate Hill. They exemplify the community-mindedness of BU's faculty.

These features are just a few examples of the wide-ranging and long-lasting change that the people who make up Brandon University help create here at home.

Elsewhere in this edition, you'll read about the impacts that you have had on us, in turn. I am proud of the spectacular BU50 anniversary Homecoming, which was a huge success this past fall. At the expanded four-day event, we hosted thousands of alumni and friends for a community celebration marking five decades since Brandon College became Brandon University.

From reunions to concerts to keynote speaker Chris Hadfield, we were thrilled by the shared excitement on campus all weekend long, and we are already planning to keep the excitement going at the next Homecoming.

This 50th anniversary also sparked an outpouring of charitable giving that is unmatched in recent memory. Donors more than tripled the amount given to the BU Foundation compared to the previous year. Your generosity makes a significant difference by funding student scholarships, facilities, equipment, and more that isn't always covered by grants or tuition.

Thank you all for helping us build Brandon, together.

DR. STEVE ROBINSON
Interim President of Brandon University

CAMPUS

Student population continues to grow at BU

STRONG INTERNATIONAL ENROLMENT has driven Brandon University's student population to new heights with a sixth straight year of growth.

Brandon University is home to 3,662 students for the 2018-19 academic year, an increase of three per cent from 3,554 in 2017-18, and an overall rise of more than 25 per cent since 2012. Total credit hours, based on the number and length of courses that students are taking, stand at nearly 70,000 across the five faculties at BU, also up slightly from last year.

International headcount rose by 82 students, but other enrolment figures and first-time registrations have remained relatively steady this year in a sign that BU's strong string of recent growth may be tapering off.

"Our substantial growth in international enrolment is evidence that word is getting out around the world about the quality of education that we offer at Brandon University, and these international students in turn bring tremendous diversity and vibrancy to our community," said Dr. Steve Robinson, BU's



International students are the largest contributors to a six-year trend of population growth at Brandon University.

Interim President and Vice-Chancellor. "We must continue to work to demonstrate to all students the value of a BU education, and to provide the supports and services that will attract students and allow them to be successful in their educational pursuits."

Official statistics at BU are recorded based on November numbers, to best account for late registrations and most of the course changes that naturally happen in the early parts of the academic year.

Partnership with Assiniboine for new joint program in Public History off to strong start

THE NEWEST JOINT PROGRAM between Brandon University and Assiniboine Community College might be making history as much as studying it.

The Public History program, which launched in fall 2018, pairs academic history courses at BU with practical media arts programs at Assiniboine. The program gives students four combined degree options.

"Enrolment in this new program has been extremely strong, which points to both the ongoing interest in history programs as well as the definite value in interpreting local history for local

audiences," said Dr. Rhonda Hinthor of BU's Department of History.

The program is already expanding beyond the normal suite of classes and partnerships with area museums. The Intro to Public History class at BU has been collaborating with Assiniboine instructor Graham Street's audio class to produce a series of Soundscape Multimedia Projects.

The projects are also a partnership with Dinsdale Personal Care Home.

"History is so much more than facts, figures and dates. History is storytelling — and telling these amazing stories is even better when you have a first-hand

account," Street said. "I cannot wait to hear some of the stories that the people at Dinsdale have to share with us."

Students have recorded conversations with Dinsdale residents about their most memorable historical experiences.

"Each one of our residents has a lifetime of stories, emotional, informative, and entertaining," said Gwen Quadrelli, the Recreation Manager at Dinsdale Personal Care Home.

"We are all very pleased that these stories, their personal histories, will be recorded and shared, and will become essential parts of our community's fuller public history."

Armistice Day centennial marked with historic display

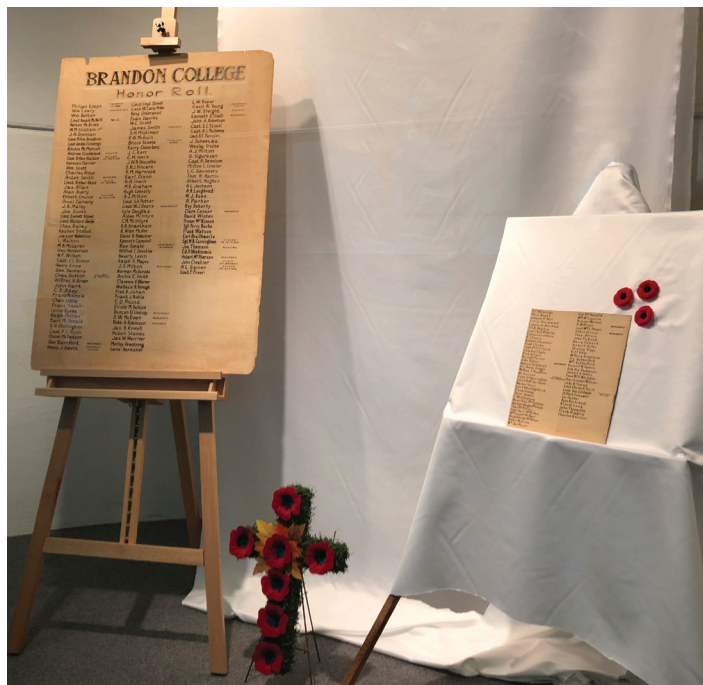
A SPECIAL EXHIBITION was put on display at the John E. Robbins Library at Brandon University in November to mark 100 years since the end of the First World War.

The display recognized and honored those from Brandon College who left to fight in the First World War. It included historic versions of the Brandon College Honor Roll.

The original Brandon College Honor Roll was unveiled in the College Chapel on Friday, Nov. 26, 1915 and a smaller Honor Roll was later added. Both documents contain lists of the Brandon College students who served and/or were killed, wounded, gassed or imprisoned during the First World War. These original Brandon College Honor Rolls are permanently housed in the SJ McKee Archives at BU and are rarely displayed.

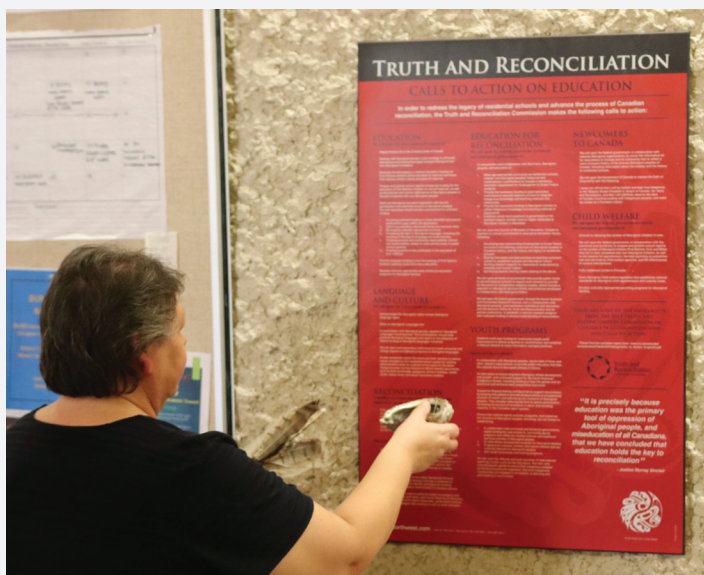
The Brandon College Honor Rolls remained incomplete for almost 100 years, because as HL MacNeill reported in *The Western Baptist* in 1919, the College did not anticipate so many of its students and alumni would head overseas. A new nominal roll was created by Suyoko Tsukamoto as part of her *Brandon College & the Great War* exhibit, displayed at BU in 2014.

This updated roll contains the names of 508 students, staff and alumni who have been identified in attestation papers, Brandon College COTC papers or Brandon College Calendars as participants in the First World War. To date, 57 students and alumni have been identified as having died while in service.



The Brandon College Honor Rolls recognize more than 500 students, staff and alumni who were participants in the First World War.

This updated Brandon College Nominal Roll is on permanent display in the Brandon College Portrait Gallery, which is located near the Brandon College Alcove in the North Stacks of the John E. Robbins Library.



Debbie Huntinghawk smudges a poster at its unveiling.

Posters remind BU of Reconciliation calls

PERMANENT POSTERS, NOW MOUNTED around Brandon University's campuses, remind and encourage everyone to work toward reconciliation.

The poster highlights some of the 94 recommendations and Calls to Action on education from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's final report.

The first poster was hung outside the School of Music Office and was unveiled in a brief ceremony that included smudging and a prayer by Knowledge Keeper Debbie Huntinghawk, as well as comments by BU Interim President and Vice-Chancellor Dr. Steve Robinson. Distribution then began for prominent display around the campuses as a daily reminder of the work needing to be done at BU and other educational institutions to begin to repair the damage done by the residential school system.

Computer Science students top Manitoba entry in international programming contest

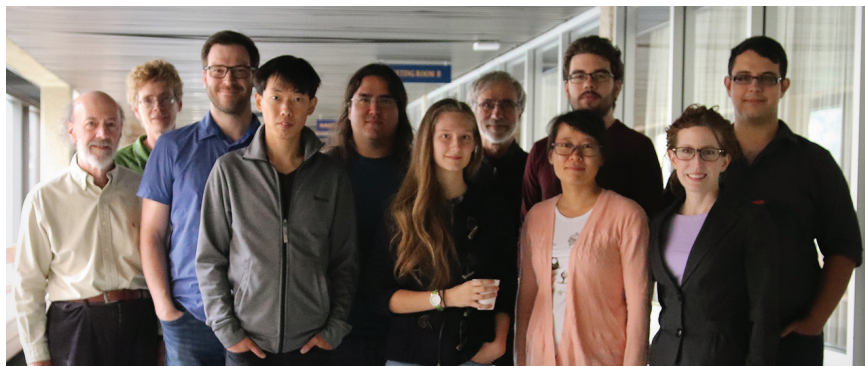


Left to right: Dr. Ashraf Abdelbar, Jason Klimack, Andrii Hrytsenko, Logan Praznik and Dr. Gautam Srivastava

A GROUP OF COMPUTER SCIENCE MAJORS became Brandon University's first team to top all Manitoba entries in the ACM North Central North America Regional Programming Contest in November.

The BU team of Logan Praznik, Jason Klimack and Andrii Hrytsenko took part in the regional competition of the International Collegiate Programming Contest in Winnipeg, one of 12 regional sites where the event was simultaneously staged. Competing on-site with several teams from the University of Manitoba and the University of Winnipeg, Praznik, Klimack and Hrytsenko posted the top score at the location. Overall, the BU team placed 23rd out of nearly 300 competing entries representing universities in eight central U.S. states as well as Manitoba.

Brandon University hosts theoretical physics event



Students and faculty from Manitoba's three largest universities attended a symposium to present research in physics and math.

STUDENTS FROM BRANDON UNIVERSITY, the University of Manitoba and the University of Winnipeg started their academic year by presenting some of their latest research at a Winnipeg Institute for Theoretical Physics symposium held at BU.

At the daylong event, physics and math students presented work on magnetic monopoles, quantum state transfer, holographic superconductors, divergent integrals in quantum field theory, hypercubes, black holes and black hole firewall boundaries. It was BU's first time hosting the symposium since 2014.

Symposium discusses emerging academic field

A SYMPOSIUM on medical humanities, hosted by Brandon University in September, could become a catalyst for greater studies in the field at BU.


"Dealing with the relationship between the arts and medicine, the medical humanities is an emerging discipline that combines the strengths of diverse fields to produce new ideas and insight," said Dr. Eftihia Mihelakis, who founded the Medical Humanities Symposium along with Dr. Jonathan Allan and Dr. Ariane Hanemaayer. "We are very excited to bring in leading experts in this area to spark discussion and thought in the community."

The symposium featured addresses by Dr. Daniel Laforest of the University of Alberta and Dr. Lucille Toth of the Ohio State University.

"One of the outcomes that we are hoping to realize as organizers is the development of a medical humanities research group at BU," Hanemaayer said. "Through the combined efforts and areas of expertise of our faculty, we could produce work that would be groundbreaking for Manitoba."

Allan believes the multidisciplinary approach is a perfect match for BU.

"This symposium includes the participation of the faculty and staff from the Faculty of Arts, the Faculty of Education and the Library," Allan said. "I think this is a real strength of the project. This isn't an Arts-only approach. This is a made-at-BU story."



Rock Solid

Students put a lode of work
into bringing Geosciences
conference to BU for first time

STORY BY
ERIN DEBOOY

PHOTOS BY
BRANDON UNIVERSITY

Geology students at Brandon University were at the core of a successful effort to bring Western Canada's largest student geosciences conference to Brandon.



In the midst of full-time course loads, essays, labs and midterms, a group of Brandon University students stepped up to host the 2019 Western Inter-University Geosciences Conference (WIUGC) in Brandon, determined to put the university and the city on the geological map.

The annual student-run conference alternates between universities across Western Canada and is a premiere opportunity for Geology students from across the country to share their research and ideas with each other while also meeting professionals in the field.

The January conference made Brandon an unlikely hub for geological buzz as the host of an annual event that draws hundreds of students.

Organizing committee president Taylor McPherson is a fourth-year Geology student at BU and has been to the conference twice before, in Edmonton and in Regina. She knew that bringing the conference to BU was something she wanted to take on when the opportunity to host it came up.

“Imagine being in a room with 140 people and you all just happen to really love rocks. It doesn’t happen very often but when it does, it is a phenomenal time,” McPherson said with a laugh. “There’s something else at the conference and I think it’s just passion. It was one of the first times I got to

“ Imagine being in a room with 140 people and you all just happen to really love rocks.”

Taylor McPherson

see people from all over Canada and the world talk about the different types of work they do in geology, and that’s when I saw how transferable geology is ... if you ask a geologist what they do you’ll never get the same answer.”

The conference was an excellent networking opportunity for students, said Abbey Bingham, another fourth-year Geology student at BU and the organizing committee’s social chair. Attending the conference can be an integral part of launching a career in the field.

"The conference is such an amazing networking opportunity, not only for the networking opportunity with professionals, but among the students as well," Bingham said. "Networking is everything in geology, and you never know who you're going to meet, and where you're going to end up."

McPherson and Bingham grew up together, friends since the early elementary years at Valleyview Centennial School. They never realized they'd eventually be studying geology together at BU.

Both students said they were hooked after a first-year Geology course, with the love of rocks getting them in the classroom and the endless possibilities of the field keeping them there.

"I always knew that you could travel anywhere in geology, there's rocks everywhere... there's no limit to where we go or what we do," McPherson said.

"There's no limitation to it, there are so many different areas or applications; that's what I like about it," Bingham added.

By living and studying in Brandon, McPherson and Bingham said they know they're a little bit of the underdog.

Manitoba's geology industry is centred in Winnipeg, McPherson pointed out, and national companies spread out farther west.

However, Bingham said she saw this as less of a drawback and more of a challenge, and a reason why bringing such a large conference to BU students was so important.

"Our literal location is a barrier, but there's nothing we can do about that... we're really trying everything we can to bring people here because Brandon has so much potential," Bingham said.

Their committee reached out and invited schools who hadn't attended the

conference before, such as Minot State University and Lakehead University, hoping to garner some new interest and make new connections.



They arranged for several companies to set up booths at the conference's industry fair, which is one of the biggest draws for students each year.

"They're all people who are looking for students for work," McPherson said. "These students then have the opportunity to talk face-to-face with these companies and start a conversation."

The committee also landed an impressive list of speakers, including Dr. Keith Barron, an exploration geologist with more than 35 years' experience in the mining sector who struck it rich by piecing together historic maps of Ecuador.

"Dr. Barron is a very busy man, but he agreed to come and speak at WIUGC... we're really excited to have him as our keynote speaker," McPherson said.

BU administration were thrilled by the conference.

"We're all so proud of the dedication and initiative that these students have shown in landing such a prestigious

conference for Brandon University," said Dr. Bernadette Ardelli, Dean of Science at BU. "This is a great opportunity for our students to meet with industry leaders and their future employers, but also a chance for us to show off the great geology research and fieldwork that we are doing here."

At the heart of this year's conference were the assets of BU, Bingham said, as many of the events available to students showed off what the university has to offer.

Organizers were delighted to show off BU's SEM Lab, which houses a Scanning Electron Microscope used to study rock samples magnified up to 300,000 times, Bingham said. Students also learned to prepare extremely thin sections of rock for close examination—so thin that they become translucent, letting light pass through them under the microscope.

A drone short course was also part of the conference, McPherson said, teaching students the basics of drones and how to get licensing, as well as how drones can be used in the geology field.

The committee also decided to introduce professional development sessions, where students can learn how to build their resumes and get tips on conducting phone or Skype interviews, which are common when applying for jobs across the country, Bingham said.

Due to a dip in the industry, the number of students going into Geology courses has been low the past few years, McPherson said, but recently that's been changing.

"Right now, it's booming, and we want students to see that," McPherson said.

"(The Geology department) is half a floor at the university, but we're mighty," Bingham said, laughing. "Our department is phenomenal... if we can make people aware that our department



“The Geology department is half a floor at the university, but we’re mighty.”

Abbey Bingham

has good professors, good lab instructors and have alumni that are still a part of the program, it would be huge for the department.”

“We might be small now but who knows with this conference?” McPherson added. “It might even help students at the university see how geology actually works.”

Ardelli says that geology is a great option for students at BU.

“In our 21st century economy, the foundational work of disciplines like geology has immediate and real-world applications. Increasing the number of female students and graduates in science, technology, engineering and mathematics helps all of us widen our perspectives, explore new insights, and make important new discoveries,” Ardelli said. “Congratulations to Taylor and Abbey and to the rest of their group for everyone’s tireless work in helping pull together this conference. They are going to be outstanding geologists as well as inspirations and role models for the next generation.”

With a focus on getting conference attendees excited about Brandon, Bingham said a key to the committee’s plans was to show visiting students some good old Brandon hospitality.

“We’re proud to be here and of all the opportunities we do have through the school, so we want to be able to show people that,” Bingham said.

McPherson said the process has been challenging.

They’ve dealt with disappointment and made mistakes, McPherson said, but more importantly, they’ve learned how to push through and work as a team.

“It’s been such a learning experience,” McPherson said. “We’ve had to try harder (than larger universities). There have been so many small things we’ve had to bargain for ... out of all the universities that have a geology department we’re probably one of the smallest, and to think that we can pull this together it’s amazing.”



DESTINATION: BRANDON



SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE BU COMMUNITY ARE AMONG A DEDICATED CORE OF BRANDONITES WHO WORK TIRELESSLY TO HELP MAJOR EVENTS, SUCH AS THE UPCOMING TIM HORTONS BRIER, SUCCEED IN THE CITY.

STORY BY PERRY BERGSON
PHOTO BY KEYWEST PHOTO

Brandon University alumni Jeff Cristall, left, and Jennifer Weinhandl are big believers in Brandon as a host city. Cristall is a member of the host committee for the 2019 Tim Hortons Brier, and Weinhandl markets Brandon as a destination for events in her role with Brandon First.



JEFF CRISTALL SUGGESTS THE WRONG PEOPLE GET NOTICED AMONG THE VOLUNTEERS AT BIG EVENTS.

The longtime volunteer, who graduated from Brandon University in 1978, said community events such as the upcoming Tim Hortons Brier Canadian men's curling championship are Westman efforts, not the work of a few.

"There are people who have volunteered five times the hours I have at five times as many things as I have, but they're always in the fourth row," Cristall said. "Nobody ever does a story about them. Without them, I can't stand where I stand."

Where Cristall is standing is among a group of civic leaders who have worked hard to bring large events to Brandon in the last decade.

After hosting the Canadian Hockey League's Memorial Cup in 2010, the city held the provincial men's curling championship in 2015, the Home Hardware Canada Cup of Curling in 2016, the Royal Canadian Legion National Youth Track and Field Championships in 2017 and 2018, and will host this year's Brier.

Many smaller events have also taken place, ranging from the International Moose Symposium and Conference in 2016 to the annual Canadian National Arabian and Half Arabian Horse Show.

Cristall, a born and raised Brandonite, did some organizing in high school at Vincent Massey, and carried it through his university days. After leaving Brandon for a few years, he returned as a chartered accountant.

MNP founder Don Penny would have a profound impact.

“ Nobody ever does a story about them. Without them, I can't stand where I stand.”

"He had a great community service attitude," Cristall said. "It wasn't just that you volunteered, you took leadership roles if you could. Not everybody wants to stand in front of the room."

It was a failure that would lead to the recent string of successes.

Cristall led an unsuccessful bid for the 2010 world junior hockey championship, but when he talked to Brandon Wheat Kings owner Kelly

McCrimmon through the process, they discussed the Memorial Cup. A year later, McCrimmon bid on and won the premier event in Canadian junior hockey.

Cristall, who is Past-President of the BU Foundation, played a major role with the Festival of the Arts, and was on the team that landed the 2016 Canada Cup.

That directly led to Brandon being granted the 2019 Brier, the annual Canadian men's curling championship that will be held March 2-10 at Westoba Place.

Cristall can be found in many other less glorious roles.

At the Legion's National Youth Track and Field Championships in 2017, he was a self-described water boy. He helped with the curling ice at the Sun Life Financial Junior Challenge in November.

Jennifer Weinhandl graduated from Brandon University in 2009, and now serves as the development co-ordinator with Brandon First, which is tasked with attracting events.

"That guy has seen things that I couldn't dream of in my dizziest daydreams when it comes to events," Weinhandl said of Cristall. "He has seen everything go right and everything that can go wrong. He puts that experience on the table and he can tell you—he's not shy—he can say I've

pursuing event tourism, while the other is encouraging smaller niche opportunities.

Cristall believes all of it helps.

"Quality of life is stuff to do," Cristall said. "Stuff to do when you're a two year old and stuff to do when you're the mother of a two year old and stuff to do when you're 82 years old. We don't naturally have as many things to do as Nanaimo, where you can step outside all year round, or (have all the attractions of big cities like) Winnipeg.

"We, to a certain extent, have to manufacture some of those things."

While the city has reliably landed big events recently, Cristall said there's no master plan. Essentially, a small group gets excited about something and recruits others.

Jackie Nichol has been another key cog in those efforts. After managing Brandon First from 2014 to 2017, and being part of the teams that brought the Canada Cup and Legion events to Brandon, she now serves as BU's Ancillary Services Manager.

She said the city of 50,000 is an excellent host.

"Our population size compared to the infrastructure we have is actually very unique," Nichol said. "We have a ton of resources available to us that a number of cities our size would never have, things like the Keystone Centre and the university and the college, just to name a few, on top of all our conference spaces within our hotels."

Part of Nichol's role at BU, which includes looking after the residences and parking, and overseeing conference services and casual accommodations—is getting the word out about the school.

When Brandon hosted the Legion track events in 2017 and 2018, the university's

nearly 300 residence rooms were filled with athletes who ate on site, trained at the Healthy Living Centre and enjoyed an athletic village experience.

"BU wants to be part of the community," Nichol said.

Another key piece of Brandon's ability to attract events is a \$3 surcharge per night for the city's 1,400 hotel rooms. The money collected is used to give local organizers a solid economic footing.

"Finding that balance is harder and harder with those large events as hosting fees go up," Weinhandl said. "It's pay-to-play. As the prices to bid on these events get higher, of course you have to pony up more money."

They agree national television exposure has tremendous value, adding Brandon city council and the province have been tremendously supportive of bid ideas.

"Somebody has to be the incubator," Cristall said. "City council can't be the guys who drive these things. They can be the enablers. This whole thing is a team. You need the volunteers, you need the leaders and you need the financiers, and if you don't have all of it, it doesn't happen."

That's part of what makes the future so intriguing to Weinhandl.

Brandon hosted a smaller provincial men's curling championship before graduating to the Canada Cup and then the Brier. She wonders if it's a strategy that could apply to other sports. She's quick to add the future might not be chasing large events, but instead helping out niche events catered to smaller fanbases.

They could be things such as cultural, music or food festivals.

Nichol, who caught the "event bug" managing the 2010 Alberta Winter Games when she experienced what she calls goosebump moments, said the strategy makes sense.

NATIONAL TELEVISION EXPOSURE HAS TREMENDOUS VALUE

been down that road and I see where this is going. Here are the cautions you should look out for."

Brandon First takes two paths. One is



“BU wants to be part of the community.”

A former Executive Director of Brandon First, Jackie Nichol is now Brandon University's Ancillary Services Manager. Facilities like BU's Healthy Living Centre are drawing cards that bring events such as the 2021 U SPORTS national men's volleyball championship to Brandon.
BRANDON UNIVERSITY

“We can’t continue to do massive event after massive event after massive event,” said Nichol, who will serve as one of the three subchairs at the Brier. “You reach out and grab them every once in a while and they’re exciting and they’re fun but you have to keep yourself sustainable at the same time and those smaller events do that.”

On the horizon is the U SPORTS national men’s volleyball championship in 2021. Brandon University was successful in its bid after hosting the women’s championship in 2016.

Event tourism can be a lucrative business.

Weinhandl said the Canada Cup was small but brought \$1.2 million into the city, adding a high tide raises all ships.

“If the city is doing well, everyone is doing well,” she said.

Nichol said the best thing about helping at big events is being part of something much larger. She said the feeling of having so many moving pieces and passionate people working toward the same goal is unmatched.

She likes where Brandon is headed.

“I will always be optimistic,” Nichol said. “There are so many passionate people here. We have a great group of leaders here who have done this for years before us, and they’re making sure that a

lot of us are trying to get in there now and keeping the ball rolling. They’re great mentors.”

“As long as people stay passionate about the things that they do, then the community is just the perfect place and the perfect size to host events.”

Weinhandl helped with the Canada Cup and Legion track and field. Her first bid process was the Brier.

She did a three-year Bachelor of Arts at BU, with a heavy emphasis on marketing. She loved the challenges of marketing classes, and after feeling stifled in retail, is completely fulfilled in her career.

“I pinch myself every day,” Weinhandl said. “This is my dream job. How many people get to brag about their hometown every day?”

Cristall, who stresses Westman residents play a key role in Brandon’s success, said he’s heard many good reviews from visitors.

Perhaps none meant more than the response to the Canada Cup.

“To anyone who’s ever experienced it, it’s fantastic,” Cristall said of Brandon and its volunteers. “After we did Canada Cup, the curlers came to us and said ‘Tell us what help you need from us to get the Brier.’

“What greater compliment could they pay us?”



*no * trivial * * matter*

Kate Hill and Aaron Wilson

Aaron Wilson came to Brandon with his wife Kate Hill to teach low brass at the BU School of Music, but the couple has branched out from their careers to a sideline gig by organizing popular trivia nights.

STORY BY DIANE NELSON
PHOTOS BY KEYWEST PHOTO

“Where the magic happens.”

When Kate Hill made that semi-tongue-in-cheek comment, she was referring to Prairie Firehouse, the local restaurant where she and her husband, Aaron Wilson, conduct weekly trivia contests for an enthusiastic collection of aficionados.

Brandon University has played its own small, but critical, part in the act as well—by making Hill and Wilson appear.

Wilson, who’s originally from Washington state, joined the faculty of the School of Music as a low brass (tuba, trombone, and euphonium) professor a little more than four years ago. Soon after their arrival, Hill, his bubbly Georgia-born wife, became a volunteer at the Art Gallery of Southwestern Manitoba, then was offered a job as gallery services co-ordinator.

The two met while both were living in North Carolina—Hill worked at the Contemporary Art Museum on the campus where Wilson did his master’s. But it was neither art nor beautiful music that brought them together.

“Oh no—she hated the trombone,” Wilson said during a laugh-a-minute interview where the two verbally jousting and good-naturedly finished each other’s sentences.

“I didn’t hate it,” Hill gently corrected, “but I didn’t know what it was. I called it the trumpet for the first little while.”

After getting his doctorate in 2013, Wilson was juggling a number of jobs—gigging up and down the Eastern Seaboard, teaching, and working at a steakhouse “just to pay the bills.”

But he always wanted to teach at a university. And, while he’d interviewed for a few positions, he hadn’t “struck gold” until he was invited to BU.

“When the opportunity at Brandon University presented itself, I came up to do the interview, and I felt really good about the program,” Wilson said. “A lot of the jobs that get offered to people my age who have just completed their doctorate are you teach maybe two or three trombone/low brass students and then you have to teach music appreciation, music theory—that kind of thing. So having a place where I could actually have a studio full of brass students was very appealing to me.”

“It was an amazing opportunity,” said Hill. “And we were just newly wed and we were looking for an adventure. But when he said Brandon, Manitoba, I said, ‘What’s that?’”

“We never dreamed we’d end up in Brandon, Manitoba,” Wilson said with a laugh, “but here we are.”

“We’ve made a really awesome life here,” Hill added.

“Yeah—we love it up here!” Wilson agreed.

With multiple talents and interests, they were an ideal fit for both the university and for Brandon, since they were keen to be involved and invested in their new community.

So, while guest-hosting karaoke at a downtown pub/restaurant for the husband of another School of Music faculty member, they decided to broach the subject of a trivia night to the owners of that establishment. The two had initially stumbled into trivia when they were in North Carolina.

“We moved in together shortly after we started dating, and he was working on his master’s and I had nothing to do on Wednesday nights because he had a night class,” Hill said. “And I was like, ‘I’m not going to sit at home by myself!’”

“So I actually answered a Craigslist ad ... and I started hosting trivia on Wednesday evenings as part of a company. They would send me out to different restaurants and some bars, and everything was sort of provided for me—really, all I had to do

was be a personality. So when Aaron got done with his semester of night classes, he started joining me. And we loved it! We created a good rapport with the people every week. I think it kind of comes down to we love education and we love learning and we love weird statistics.”

So when the owners of the aforementioned pub and restaurant agreed to their proposal, Hill devised a format and the couple hosted well-supported trivia nights for about a year. But then attendance started dropping off a bit, and a close friend suggested if they were

considering a change of venue, they should think about Prairie Firehouse. That same friend convinced Firehouse owner Anna Dumas to attend one of Hill and Wilson’s sessions.

“I was really skeptical at first, but I met them and I really liked them,” Dumas said. “But I was like, ‘I don’t know—trivia’s not really my thing.’ But I can’t say no to something I haven’t tried, so I decided to go. And it was literally 20 minutes in, and I was like, ‘THIS IS THE GREATEST THING EVER!!’”

“I was having so much fun, after that I was hooked. And I think even that night I contacted them and I said,

‘You guys need to do this at the Firehouse. Definitely. As soon as possible.’”

“*I was having so much fun, after that I was hooked*”

Anna Dumas, Prairie Firehouse Owner

And the rest, as they say, is history. Their Trivia Tuesdays concept has more than caught on. You might say it’s—ahem—on fire.

“It really took off quite quickly,” Wilson said. “I think the first night we were there, we had like about 60 people.”

Teams of one to six players can compete, there’s no charge to play, and the questions start flying at 8 p.m. Dumas said the Firehouse has been inundated with reservations for the Tuesday evening contests.

“Every single week we have about 11 standing reservations for





Teams get into the spirit of trivia nights with clever names and matching T-shirts.

anywhere from four to six people,” Dumas said. “And then usually the Monday and Tuesday, we’ll just get non-stop calls, and on average we’ll have probably about 21 reservations between 7 and 8 o’clock. It fills up. We very rarely have empty tables. There’ve been times when we’ve had to seat people at the bar. There was one girl who actually won first place by herself, sitting at the bar.”

Summer is always a busy time for the Firehouse, especially on the outdoor patio, and Dumas has had lots of requests from folks who want to play along outside.

“So next year I’ll likely have a speaker that I put onto the patio,” she said. “If we can fill the patio tables with it as well, why not?”

Allison Collins is a trivia night regular. She and a group of work friends started attending in the fall of 2017.

“It’s a ton of fun—immediate gratification,” Collins said with a laugh. “There’s nothing better than instantly being rewarded for knowing things.

“I’ve always been a trivia fan—it puts the years of amassed pop culture/current events knowledge to good use!”

While Collins and her colleagues don’t attend every single week, they “really got into it,” she said, and even had team T-shirts printed. And she really appreciates that Hill and Wilson create all their own questions, and present their “show” with plenty of flair.

“Kate is definitely the front woman of the pair,” Collins said. “She’s a natural host and brings a good mix of humour, sass and patience. Aaron is certainly quieter but you can tell they both put a TON of work into researching topics.

“You can tell they enjoy doing trivia as a hobby together and they’re always really stoked when everyone’s having a good time. Kate also gets the teams pumped up each week by running extra points contests on their trivia Facebook page.”

So how do two people who are dedicated to their full-time jobs come up with the thousands of questions needed to run as many regular competitions as they do, keeping in mind they also hire out for private functions?

“It’s just we’re always thinking about it,” Wilson said. “So if I think of a question, I’ll be just like, ‘I’ll text Kate.’”

“I text topics probably about eight times a day,” said Hill. “I just text myself.”

Their most successful competition thus far was built around a Harry Potter theme—they had 26 teams turn out for that one. Hill said while they’re considering doing occasional theme nights, they prefer general trivia because it doesn’t exclude anyone. And the bottom line is, they want everyone to have fun.

“So, for example, sometimes we ask questions for just the laugh factor, but also because it’s a good question,” Hill said. “One of my favorite recurring questions is, ‘Who said it—Mr. Burns from ‘The Simpsons,’ or Donald Trump?’”

“Which is very difficult!” said Wilson with a chuckle.

“So sometimes we ask questions that are meant to be kind of funny,” Hill said. “But there’s always an answer and we hope folks can figure it out. Oh! Opera versus cheese. Was it an opera, or was it a cheese?”

While Hill is at the centre of the action as the host, Wilson supports from the sidelines, doing the scorekeeping and handling any issues that arise. Their trivia nights are very much a dual effort.

“We fill out our roles really well,” Hill

they’ll come out as a team and play. A lot of faculty will join us.”

And although both Hill and Wilson are employed by two of the city’s most prominent institutions, when they’re out and about in town, it’s their “hobby” that

art gallery?” Hill said. “And I would say, 75 per cent of the time, it’s trivia.”

And while the couple thinks that’s hilarious, the recognition is just fine with them.

“We’re happy to do this,” said Hill. “We have a great time and we’ve met so many people through it. We’ve made friends, and honestly, to us—I mean, we do get paid to host trivia, but it’s also a little bit of a labour of love. We love doing it.”

“We’re very social people,” Wilson agreed.

“There are quality people in Brandon,” Hill added, “and it’s the kind of place where if you embrace them, they’re going to embrace you. We’ve learned that, and we love it here.”

“We do get paid to host trivia, but it’s also a little bit of a labour of love.”

Kate Hill

said. “But he’ll say funny things behind me—he’s my Ed McMahon. And I know if I had to start doing this without him, I wouldn’t do it. One, it would be too difficult for me to do both, because people call me out into the crowd and I love to socialize with folks.”

“And that helps create the atmosphere,” Wilson said.

“It does,” Hill agreed. “And then the other thing is that he’s my funny guy. He collects the answers, and he tells me when someone’s put a really stupid or funny answer so I can call them out.”

“And occasionally, I’ll double-check an answer,” Wilson said. “But most of the time, we’re spot-on.”

While the general public has embraced trivia nights, the university community has also been supportive of Hill and Wilson’s efforts.

“Some of my colleagues have come out and played, and of course this isn’t my main thing that I do, but it’s something that I do for fun, and it’s a great time,” Wilson said.

“We love the university,” said Hill. “Lots of students, lots of School of Music professors—

seems to garner the most attention.

“We always play a game when we go to Superstore: Who are we going to run into? Someone we know from trivia, someone from the university, or someone from the

Hill’s outgoing personality and wit make her an ideal host.



ALUMNI



The 2018 BU50 celebration was Brandon University's biggest homecoming yet, with four days of events for alumni and the entire community. PHOTOGRAPHY BY SANDY BLACK

2018 Homecoming the 'best yet' as Brandon University celebrates golden anniversary year

BRANDON UNIVERSITY IS STILL BASKING under the golden glow of the BU50 Homecoming celebrations.

"What an incredible, exciting four days of fun, inspiration and entertainment as we all came together to celebrate Homecoming and to mark 50 years since Brandon College became Brandon University," said BU Interim President Dr. Steve Robinson. "There was a tremendous amount of energy all across campus, and I was impressed by the wide range of people who participated. It is clear that Brandon University is a special place for so many of us."

The expanded 2018 Homecoming included traditional reunions, awards and get-togethers, as well as Bobcats matches and campus tours, with much more added to commemorate the 50th anniversary occasion. New highlights included a community research conference, a music festival in a gigantic heated tent, a family fun day, and keynote speaker Col. Chris Hadfield.

"My heartfelt thanks go to everyone who was a part of Homecoming this year, and who joined us over the weekend," Robinson said. "It was an absolute pleasure to speak with alumni from near and far who returned to share their weekend

and their memories with us, and I was very happy to reconnect with retirees who joined us at our Champagne Reception. I also thank all the faculty, staff and students who worked tirelessly in planning, putting together and volunteering at the dozens of events that were part of this year's Homecoming."

Homecoming started with a look to the future as an information night was held for future students, and concluded with a look back as alumni gathered to reminisce and say their goodbyes at the farewell brunch. The days in between those bookends included two keynote speeches by Canadian astronaut Col. Chris Hadfield, a day full of family activities and the Fifty Fest concert.

"Every year it seems we outdo last year, but this year's golden anniversary was something very special," said Carla Eisler, BU's Director of Advancement and Alumni Affairs. "We learned a lot about what new elements our community are eager to support, and we are already talking about how we can make Homecoming 2019 another must-do event in Brandon."

"Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's Homecoming weekend the thrilling success that it was."

Save the Date for Homecoming 2019, set for October 17 – 20.

Plan your class reunion now! Contact the alumni office at Alumni@BrandonU.ca

Alumni Awards



Distinguished Young Alumni Award recipient, Mr. Nathan Peto '06 with BUAA President Mr. Chad McNish (left) and BU Interim President Dr. Steve Robinson (right)



Alumni Award for Exceptional Service recipient, Mr. Gerald Brown, '56, '63 with BUAA President Mr. Chad McNish (left) and BU Interim President Dr. Steve Robinson (right)

Call for Nominations – Alumni Awards

EACH YEAR, the Alumni Association recognizes outstanding alumni. If you know of a BU or Brandon College graduate who has made a major impact in their career or community, we'd love to hear from you! Nominate someone today for:

- Young Alumni Award
- Exceptional Service
- Community Service
- Wall of Fame
- Career Achievement

Fill out a nomination by visiting BrandonU.ca/Alumni/Awards. Don't wait! The deadline is April 1.

In Memoriam

ALUMNI

Donald G. Axford, BA '62
August 24, 2018

Chelsey J. Bebbington,
Associate '08 – October 6, 2018

Blake S. Duffield, BSc '09
September 30, 2018

Karen E. Fingas, BA '68
October 5, 2018

Judith A. Flett, BT '81, BEd '91
November 4, 2016

Jeffrey D. Freiheit, BGS '07, BEd
(AD) '09 – August 2, 2018

Terrance H. Gibson, BA '75
August 28, 2018

Colleen Hudson-Thiessen,
Associate '83 – March 15, 2018

Hugh Graham Hunt, BSc '51
December 31, 2017

Shaileen E. Hysop, Associate '88
May 16, 2017

Stuart T. Johnson, TTC '64, BSc
'66, BEd '69 – July 26, 2018

William A. Johnstone, BT '74,
BEd '79 – December 7, 2017

Garnet G. MacDonald, BGS '81
July 16, 2018

Kenneth L. May, BSc '63
August 27, 2018

Michael R. Parrott, BSc '83
August 5, 2018

Harley D. Potter, BA '46
January 4, 2018

Richard D. Potter, Associate '87
October 18, 2018

David Price, Associate
October 12, 2018

Tony Semchyshyn, BA '77
March 27, 2018

Eugene P. Storeshaw, BSc '72
October 22, 2018

Marjorie R. (Greenlay) Young,
BT '77 – August 21, 2018

FACULTY/STAFF

William (Bill) Burgess,
Professional Associate - Continuing
Education, 1978 - 1990
August 11, 2018

David Eaton,
Lab Instructor - Faculty of Science,
Assistant Professor – Faculty of
Education, 1962 - 1995
October 2, 2018

Margaret Lehnus,
Student Records, Registrar's Office,
1990 - 2000
November 14, 2018

Dr. Samuel Nyarku,
Assistant Professor – Faculty of
Science (1984-1993), Travelling
Professor – BUNTEP, Faculty of
Education (2002-2012)
August 13, 2018

Mark Your Calendars for these Alumni Events: Vancouver – Thursday, April 25 | Victoria – Friday, April 26

Visit BrandonU.ca/Alumni for more upcoming alumni events.

HOMECOMING 2018



ROCKET MAN – Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield enthralled audiences in a pair of speeches, explaining the importance of science, technology, engineering and mathematics to area school children before delivering an inspiring public talk to a full house at the Western Manitoba Centennial Auditorium.

GALLERY BY PHOTOGRAPHY BY SANDY BLACK UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED



PAGE TURNER – The Alumni Authors & Faculty Book Fair provided members of the BU community an opportunity to share their writing.



ROYAL TREATMENT – Juno Award nominees Royal Canoe headlined Fifty Fest, a free concert held in a giant tent on BU's front lawn.
BRANDON UNIVERSITY



CENTRE COURT – Manitoba Premier Brian Pallister, a Brandon University graduate and former Bobcats basketball player, took in a game with his wife, Esther, at the Healthy Living Centre.



HOOPS HOMECOMING – Stories of basketball glory were shared at the Healthy Living Centre as hundreds of former Brandon University and Brandon College athletes and supporters took part in the basketball reunion.



SHARED TRADITIONS – Homecoming guests tried their hands at beading at the Indigenous Peoples' Centre.



BUBBLY PERSONALITY – Karlheinz the Bubbleman delighted kids of all ages in a show at the Evans Theatre during the Family Fun Afternoon.



CHEERS – Brandon West MLA Reg Helwer raises a toast to BU's past, present and future with fellow alumni and Brandon-Souris MP Larry Maguire at a reception.



BIG DREAMS – Families took a lighthearted look at their futures as their faces lit up for the photo booth.



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BU 50

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DISCOVERY

Early childhood services project introduced to Brandon

AN EXTENSIVE NEW RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP looking at families' experience with early childhood disability services was introduced to the community in the fall.

Dr. Patty Douglas, who is the lead for BU's portion of the project, was joined for the Brandon launch by project director and creator Dr. Kathryn Underwood of Ryerson University, as well as Brandon Friendship Centre Executive Director Gail Cullen.

The goal of the Inclusive Early Childhood Service Systems (IECSS) project is to re-imagine the meaning of childhood disability and improve early childhood disability service systems. The researchers hope the perspective of families and an understanding of the diverse abilities of children will be reflected in social policy.

"I am very excited Brandon University was chosen as one of the research sites for this important national partnership and look forward to learning more from families about their experiences," said Douglas. "The Brandon Friendship Centre will bring



Dr. Patty Douglas

years of experience and system knowledge to the project about meeting the needs of families and children and incorporating Indigenous perspectives into service provision in the province. The Brandon site of the Inclusive Early Childhood Service Systems Project will contribute a unique perspective in terms of families and understandings of disability within a small prairie urban centre services hub where service

gaps and long waiting lists are common."

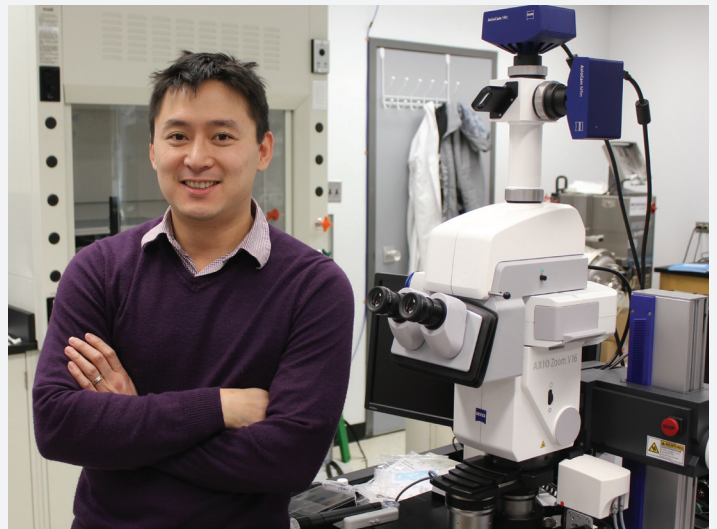
The early years of childhood are a critical time of development, but there has been little work to examine how institutional differences in the early years affect children with disabilities, particularly in Indigenous communities. The IECSS partnership will bring together nearly 30 researchers and 15 partner organizations from eight communities across Canada.

Cellular research at BU boosted by grant

FUNDING FROM THE NATURAL SCIENCES and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) will help a Brandon University researcher's work to create a better understanding of cancer, heart disease and stroke.

Dr. Vincent Chen, an Assistant Professor in BU's Department of Chemistry, is a recipient of an NSERC Discovery Grant, with a value of \$165,000 over five years. Chen's lab at BU specializes in the study of gap junction ion channels that are responsible for direct cell-to-cell communication. The proteins making up these channels regulate a number of cellular processes including growth, proliferation and migration, as well as cell death and survival.

"This NSERC discovery grant will allow us to better understand the biochemical pathways of gap junctional intercellular communication, and how these channels are misregulated in diseases such as cancer, heart disease and stroke" Chen said. "By understanding how tissues of the brain and heart use gap



Dr. Vincent Chen

junctions provides critically important avenues for us to identify new biomarkers and design novel therapeutic approaches to mitigate disease."

BU Geography faculty bring home awards



Left to right: Professor Emeritus Roderick McGinn, Dr. Derrek Eberts, and Dr. Rachel Herron

TWO BRANDON UNIVERSITY FACULTY members in the Department of Geography have been recognized with awards from the Canadian Association of Geographers.

Professor Emeritus Roderick McGinn and Dr. Rachel Herron were presented with the awards from the Prairie Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers (PCAG) at its 42nd annual meeting in September.

PCAG President Dr. Derrek Eberts, who is also a fellow member of the BU Geography faculty, presented the two awards.

McGinn received the John H. Warkentin Award for Scholarly Contributions to the Geography of the Western Interior, while Herron received the Prairie CAG Early Career Award, for recent appointees who have made significant scholarly contributions to the discipline and/or demonstrated exceptional achievement in teaching.

“Brandon University has always been a place where brilliant teachers and researchers have a home, and where faculty have the opportunity to excel in their fields and to share that excellence with our students and our community,” said Dr. Bernadette Ardelli, BU’s Dean of Science. “Both Dr. McGinn and Dr. Herron are contributing important and meaningful work to western Manitoba and to rural areas that truly makes a meaningful difference right here.”

McGinn was lauded for his lifetime of work to exploring the complex physical geography of western Manitoba. Although now retired, McGinn continues an active research program showing no signs of slowing down. Herron, who has been appointed as a Canada Research Chair in Rural and Remote Mental Health, is noted as being one of the leading early career health geographers in Canada.

BU professor presented with national honour

A MEMBER OF Brandon University’s Faculty of Education has been lauded for her unique look at the development of leadership.

Dr. Alysha Farrell, an Assistant Professor in BU’s Department of Leadership and Education, was the 2018 recipient of the T.B. Greenfield Dissertation Award. The award, presented annually by the Canadian Association for the Study of Educational Administration, recognizes an outstanding PhD dissertation. Farrell completed her PhD at the University of Manitoba.

“I am incredibly honored to have won a T.B. Greenfield Dissertation award from the Canadian Association for the Study of Educational Administration,” Farrell said. “I remember being introduced to Greenfield’s work early in my PhD program. Greenfield challenges us to look for escape routes beyond the dominant managerial language in educational administration. In my doctoral thesis, I take up Greenfield’s challenge but I locate the centre of my inquiry inside the psychic inheritances that obstruct one’s escape routes.”

Farrell joined BU in 2015 and she says the Greenfield award has inspired her to continue her development as an educator and a researcher.

“I am very excited to be an Assistant Professor at Brandon University in the Department of Educational Leadership and Administration. BU is a place where I know I will be able to grow and to contribute as a new researcher.”

SUPPORT

BU builds on big year with 2018-19 Annual Appeal

YOUR GIFT MAKES A DIFFERENCE. Whether big or small, undesignated or directed to an area of special interest, you help directly improve student success and the quality of student life at BU. **If you haven't yet made your contribution, please consider doing so today.**

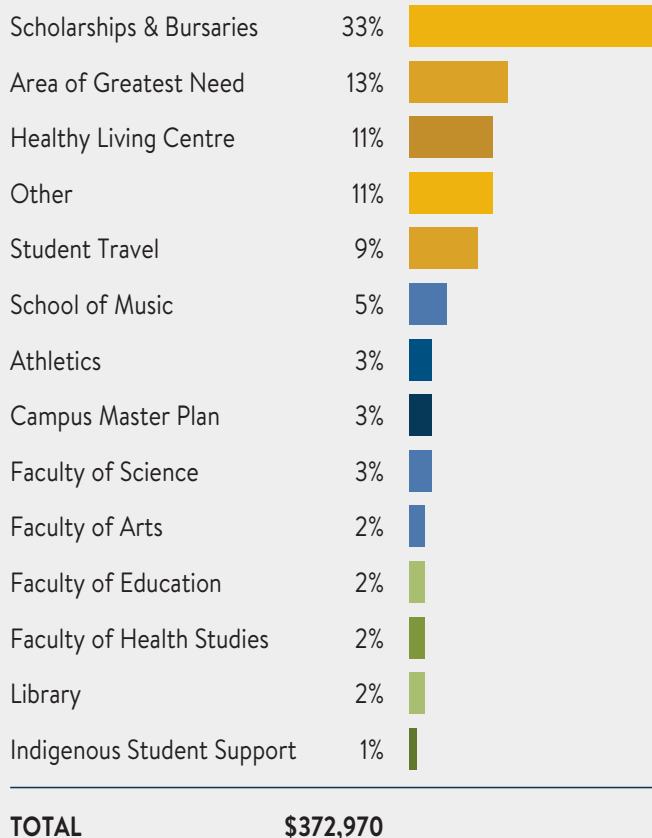
You can choose to give to one of this year's highlighted areas (student travel opportunities, scholarships and bursaries, and the ongoing needs of faculties, schools, and facilities), or to another area of interest to you. Read about some of the giving opportunities at BrandonU.ca/Give/Annual-Fund.

Thank You! Brandon University's 50th anniversary year sparked an extraordinary outpouring of generosity from donors, who responded to BU's Annual Appeal by more than tripling the previous year's amount. Thanks to the generosity of alumni and the University community (including staff, faculty and board members) more than \$370,000 was received through this appeal in 2017-18! These funds will be used to enhance our programs and services to students, increase scholarship and bursary support, and help fund our most important needs as they arise, making the student experience that much better for each and every one of our future graduates and leaders.

"The funds so generously donated to the Brandon University Foundation will help us enhance our programs and services to students, increase scholarship and bursary support, and help fund our most important needs as they arise," said BU Interim President Steve Robinson. "Your generosity goes a long way in improving the student experience for each and every one of our future graduates and leaders."

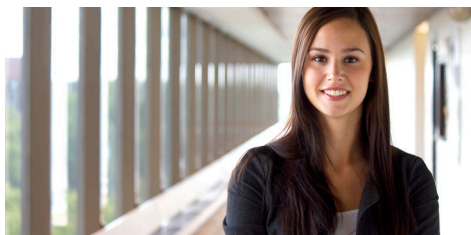
"As tuition and government grants cover only so much, these additional contributions are greatly appreciated," said BU

HOW DID YOU HELP? ANNUAL GIVING IMPACT 2017/18



Development Officer Shawna English. "Our donors help Brandon University build on our foundation as an outstanding academic institution to create a bright future for our students and for all the wider community."

Give online at BrandonU.ca/Give/Donate, by phone at 204-727-7374 or 877-282-4483, or by cheque to BU Foundation, 270-18th Street, Brandon, MB R7A 6A9.



Looking for summer employees? BU Co-op students bring enthusiasm, insight and the latest learning to your workplace.

Learn more at BrandonU.ca/Co-op





The Healthy Living Centre is benefitting from a \$50,000 gift, while another commitment will lead to the founding of a new men's basketball scholarship.

Alumni team up with National Bank Financial on gifts

TWO SEPARATE GIFTS, both thanks to partnerships with the donors' employer, have resulted in \$100,000 in support of student-athletes and Brandon University's Healthy Living Centre (HLC). Kerry Auriat '87 and Michael Bouchard '93 have joined with National Bank Financial – Wealth Management to make \$50,000 donations.



Auriat, who is a member of BU's Board of Governors and a Vice-President with National Bank Financial – Wealth Management, has made a \$50,000 commitment to the HLC. In recognition of this gift, the front desk at the HLC has been officially named the Auriat Family Reception Desk.

"This is an opportunity to support an institution that has done so much for my family, as well as countless people across Canada," Auriat said. "I am very proud to call myself a BU alumnus. I appreciate the important role BU plays in our community."



Bouchard is also a member of the National Bank Financial – Wealth Management team. An avid BU Bobcats basketball fan, he has made a \$50,000 commitment, in conjunction with his employer, to establish the Michael Bouchard National Bank Financial Wealth Management Men's Basketball Scholarship.

"I felt the need to support our student athletes after seeing how hard they were working and how well they represent our university all across this nation," said Bouchard.

"National Bank Financial – Wealth Management is deeply committed to supporting the communities where our clients and our employees live and work," said Jennifer Schafer, Regional Vice-President of National Bank Financial.

Gayle's legacy celebrated

DR. ARTHUR AND MRS. DARCY BOWER (former faculty member and former Dean of Students/Registrar, respectively) have established an award to celebrate the legacy of Donovan Gayle, who they met while he was a Bobcat basketball player. Gayle, who graduated from Brandon University in 2012, died of acute myeloid leukemia in December 2017.

Diagnosed with leukemia in 2013, Gayle founded the annual Balling for the Cure tournament in Winnipeg to build awareness, encourage blood and bone marrow donations, and raise funds for CancerCare Manitoba. The event has raised more than \$20,000.

The Donovan Gayle Memorial Basketball Award will be given to a member of the men's basketball team who is a valued team player and demonstrates leadership skills.

Supporters can give to the award online at BrandonU.ca/Give/Donate, by phone at 204-727-7374 or 877-282-4483, or by cheque to Brandon University Foundation, 270 – 18th Street, Brandon MB, R7A 6A9.



Donovan Gayle

SPORTS

BU named 2021 U SPORTS men's volleyball nationals host

FIVE YEARS AFTER BRANDON UNIVERSITY hosted the school's first national championship the Bobcats will have the chance to compete for a national title on home court again.

The U SPORTS men's volleyball national championship will take place at the BU Healthy Living Centre in March of 2021, the school's second time hosting a national event and first for the men's side.

"BU Athletics and the entire host committee are very excited to bring an event of this magnitude to Brandon and western Manitoba," said BU Athletic Director Russ Paddock. "The U SPORTS men's volleyball championship will be a great motivator for the youth athletes in the region and a tremendous opportunity for local sport fans to witness an exciting national championship."

The championship will look to replicate and expand on the immensely successful 2016 women's national tournament. In 2016 thousands of spectators took in the action over the three-day event, leaving a lasting impact on the campus, the community, and the sports scene in Brandon and the Westman region.



The Bobcats men's volleyball team will play for a national title on home court in 2021.

The Bobcats rose to No. 1 in the U SPORTS national men's volleyball rankings in January. Combined with a tremendously talented group and the opportunity to host for the first time, coach Grant Wilson is excited to welcome the championship to the city where he grew up and fell in love with the sport.

"I think it really gives the chance to showcase our sport, our program, and our facility," says Wilson. "After seeing our women's team host back in 2016, and seeing the experience that their team

went through and how the community embraced that whole experience it's obviously very exciting. It was a pretty special time here at BU, so to think that our athletes and our team will have that same experience is something that we are definitely looking forward to."

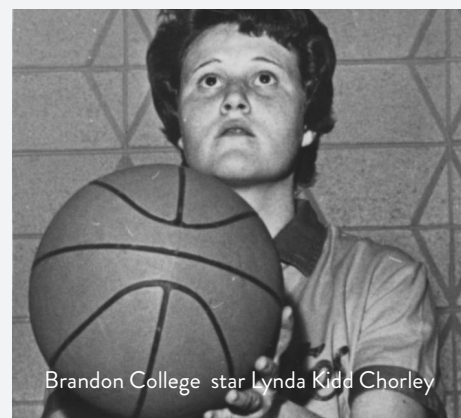
The BU men's volleyball team has previously taken part in three national championships, earning medals in all three: a bronze medal finish in 2009, a silver medal in 2011, and a bronze medal in 2013.

Scholarship launched in conjunction with basketball reunion

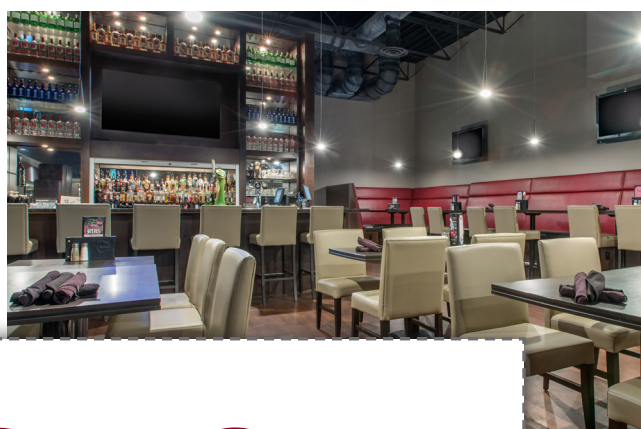
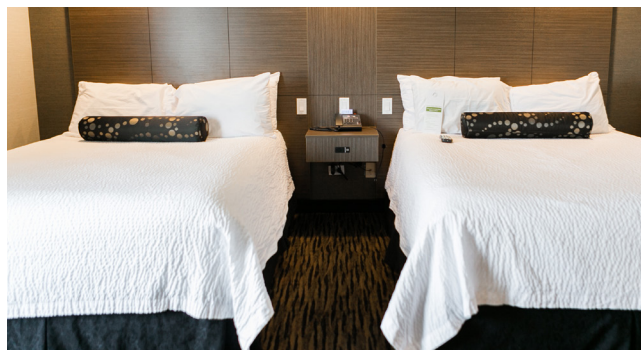
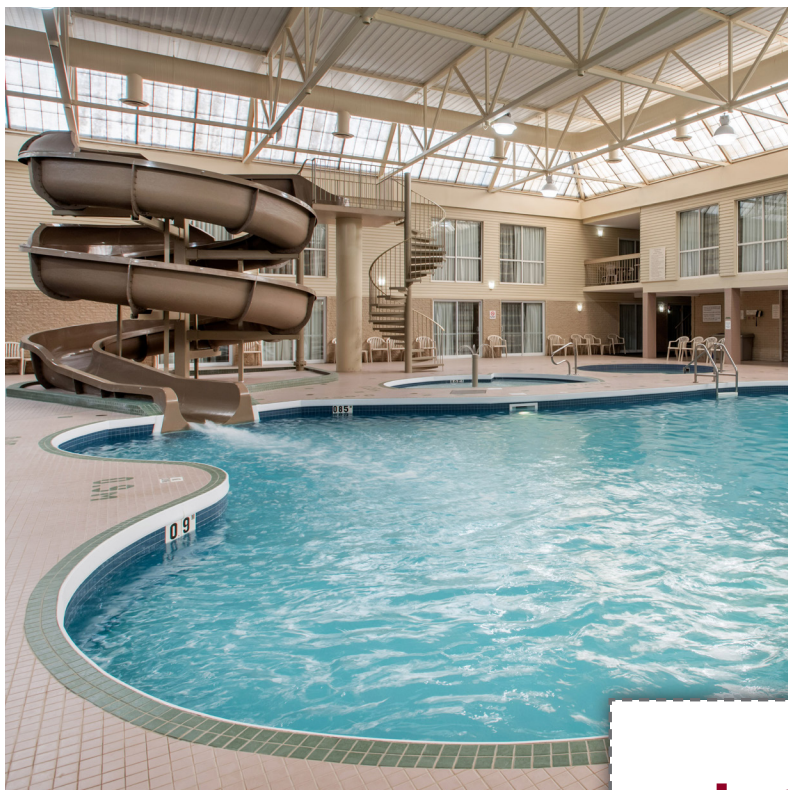
ALUMNI FROM THE BRANDON College Caps and BU Bobcats Women's Basketball teams contributed to a new scholarship while gathered for the basketball reunion at Homecoming. The Women's Basketball Alumni Scholarship will go to a female basketball player who is active in the community and demonstrates strong leadership skills.

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